

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:RCGRAHAM:RC
APPROVED BY ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 039504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PA

SUBJECT: EMBASSY COMMENTS ON PARAGUAYAN GENERAL ELECTION
REF: ASUNCION 604

1. WE HAVE READ WITH INTEREST YOUR PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON THE FEBRUARY 12 GENERAL ELECTIONS, AND LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER ANALYSIS OF THE EVENT. IN ORDER TO QUANTIFY THE NOTED IRREGULARITIES FOR A BETTER WASHINGTON PERCEPTION OF THE ELECTION, PLEASE INCLUDE IN THE EMBASSY'S ANALYSIS ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. HOW MANY EMBASSY OBSERVERS WERE UTILIZED? HOW MANY POLLING PLACES WERE COVERED OUT OF WHAT TOTAL? MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION WOULD BE HELPFUL ON THE NUMBER OF LOCATIONS WHERE OPPOSITION BALLOTS WERE NOT AVAILABLE FOR THE VOTERS AND THE NORMAL PRACTICE IN PARAGUAY REGARDING SEALING OF BALLOT BOXES.

2. PLEASE ALSO REPORT REACTION BY THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO THE ELECTION RESULTS, AND WHAT INSTITUTIONS AND
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PROCEDURES EXIST FOR CHALLENGE AND CORRECTION OF VOTING
IRREGULARITIES.

VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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